

*Library*

B O R O U G H   O F   B R I D G W A T E R

---

A N N U A L   R E P O R T

O N   T H E

H E A L T H   O F   T H E   B O R O U G H

F O R   T H E   Y E A R   1 9 5 5

R.H. WATSON, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

---



B O R O U G H   O F   B R I D G W A T E R

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE 1 9 5 5

Chairman:

ALDERMAN W. O. COATE

Vice-Chairman:

ALDERMAN P. WILLS

ALDERMAN W.G. FISHER

COUNCILLOR W.J. HOOPER

COUNCILLOR W. BAILEY

COUNCILLOR J.M. LANG

COUNCILLOR V.J. GUMBRELL

COUNCILLOR W.H.G. PALFREY

COUNCILLOR F. HARRIES

COUNCILLOR J. PITMAN

COUNCILLOR G.C. HARRIS

COUNCILLOR Mrs. A.B. POTTERTON

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF 1 9 5 5

Medical Officer of Health:

R.H. WATSON, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

R.K. LEAN, M.S.I.A.

Inspector of Meat and Food

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:

C.W. RICHARDS, A.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.

B.C. REILLY, M.S.I.A.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1955

Health Department,

Albert Street,

BRIDGWATER.

July, 1956.

To:-

The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Bridgwater.

Mr. Mayor, Mrs. Potterton and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the Borough, and the work of the Public Health Department for the year 1955. The report is set out in the manner of previous ones, so that comparison with former years can easily be made.

The health of the community has been satisfactory during the year under review. The total number of infectious diseases notified again showed considerable reduction from that for the previous year, and is mainly due to reduction in the incidence of whooping cough. There were no major outbreaks of any of the notifiable infectious diseases.

The Vital Statistics show only very slight variation and correspond closely with those for the country as a whole. The decrease in births reported in the previous report was not maintained, there being 386 as compared with 381 in 1954.


The Food Hygiene Regulations 1955, came into operation on 1.1.56, and they considerably strengthen the position of the Local Authority in their efforts to bring all food handling premises up to a satisfactory state. The enforcement of these regulations will put a very considerable amount of work on the staff of the department.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Members of the Council and the other Chief Officers for the willing assistance and co-operation which they have always given me.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R.H. WATSON.



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2017 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28949730>

## GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (Acres)	2,083.873
Population (Registrar General's estimate) 1955	23,900
No. of inhabited houses on 31st December, 1955	6,840
Rateable value on 31st December, 1955	£154,667
Sum represented by 1d rate on 31st December, 1955	£ 611

### Live Births.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	197	173	370
Illegitimate	<u>5</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>16</u>
	<u>202</u>	<u>184</u>	<u>386</u>

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 16.15

Corrected Birth Rate 15.67

Comparative figure for England and Wales 15.0

Still Births. 9

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 23.83

Death Rate. Total number of deaths 285

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 11.92

Corrected Death Rate 11.44

Comparative figure for England and Wales 11.7

### Infantile Mortality (Deaths of infants under one year of age)

Legitimate	9
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>
	<u>10</u>

Rate of all infants per 1,000 births 25.91

Rate of all legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate  
live births 24.32

Rate of all illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate  
live births 62.50

## VITAL STATISTICS

### Births.

After allowing for inward and outward transfers the Registrar General's figures show that there were 386 births (202 boys and 184 girls) in the Borough during 1955, being 5 births more than in 1954. Of these births 16 were illegitimate. This is 4.1% of the total live births, as compared with 5.3% in 1954.





The Crude Birth Rate was 16.15 and when corrected for age and sex distribution of the population, it was 15.67.

Birth Rates for Bridgwater and for England and Wales for the past six years were as follows:-

Year	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
England and Wales	15.8	15.5	15.3	15.5	15.2	15.0
Bridgwater	18.07	19.16	17.14	18.22	16.08	16.15

#### Deaths.

After correction for transferable deaths, the number of deaths in Bridgwater was 285 (142 males and 143 females). This is 31 more than in the previous year and gives a Crude Death Rate of 11.92, which when corrected for sex and age distribution of the population in order to make it comparable with other districts becomes 11.44.

The following table shows the Crude Death Rate for Bridgwater, the Corrected Death Rate, and for comparison the Death Rate for England and Wales, during the last six years.

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Crude Death Rate	12.77	14.11	13.20	11.94	10.72	11.92
Corrected Death Rate	12.38	13.55	12.67	11.46	10.29	11.44
England and Wales	11.6	12.5	11.3	11.4	11.3	11.7



Cause of Death	M.	F.	Total.
All Causes	142	143	285
1. Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	4	1	5
2. Other forms of tuberculosis	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	3	-	3
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1	1
10. Malignant neoplasm of stomach	4	4	8
11. Malignant neoplasm of lung, bronchus	7	-	7
12. Malignant neoplasm of breast	1	8	9
13. Malignant neoplasm of uterus	-	2	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	11	16	27
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	1	1
16. Diabetes	-	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of the nervous system	12	22	34
18. Coronary disease and angina	16	14	30
19. Hypertension with heart disease	4	1	5
20. Other heart diseases	31	35	66
21. Other circulatory disease	2	5	7
22. Influenza	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia	2	4	6
24. Bronchitis	13	4	17
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	2	2	4
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	7	2	9
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	2	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	4	-	4
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	1	-	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	11	13	24
33. Motor vehicle accidents	2	-	2
34. All other accidents	1	4	5
35. Suicide	3	-	3
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-



### Infantile Mortality.

The number of children dying within the first twelve months of life was 10. The rate per 1,000 of all live births was 25.91.

Infantile mortality has been greatly reduced during the present century. In England and Wales in the period 1901 to 1905 there were 172 deaths per 1,000 births, in the period 1936 to 1940 there were 77, and in 1955 there were 24.9.

At the turn of the century the main causes of deaths in infants were (1) general diseases, excluding tuberculosis, (2) respiratory diseases, (3) nervous diseases (mainly convulsions), (4) tuberculosis, (5) malformations and prematurity. The greatest decline has taken place in regard to tuberculosis, digestive diseases, nervous diseases including convulsions and violent deaths.

Some deaths are inevitable amongst infants under twelve months of age, however good their surroundings, and however intelligently maternal care is exercised: a certain proportion are very premature, and cannot all survive, while others are born with malformations and other defects which terminate their existence. In considering the value and efficiency of our present health services it is therefore necessary to consider the circumstances leading up to the death of all infants under one year of age. In the following table it will be seen that 8 of the 10 deaths of children in this age group occurred in the first week of life, when deaths are generally considered to be non-preventable by the public health services. Of the remaining 2 deaths one was associated with congenital defect.

#### Infantile Mortality during 1955.

Cause of death	Under 1 week	1 - 4 weeks	1 - 6 months	6 - 12 months	Total under 1 year
Cerebral haemorrhage	2				2
Prematurity	4				4
Atelectasis	1				1
Subarachnoid haemorrhage	1				1
Gross microcephaly				1	1
Bronchopneumonia			1		1
Total	8		1	1	10

### Inquests.

10 inquests were held by the Coroner in the Borough during the year. Of these, 6 were upon residents of the town, and 4 on non-residents.

The causes of death recorded at inquests upon residents of the Borough are set out as follows:-

<u>Cause of death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Road accidents	1	-	1
Suicide	2	-	2
Drowning	1	-	1
Accidents inside the home	-	1	1
Misadventure	-	1	1
	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>





## GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES

### Laboratory Facilities.

Pathological specimens are sent to the Laboratory at Musgrove Park Hospital, which forms part of the Public Health Laboratory Service. Results of investigations are available with the minimum of delay and there is good liaison between the laboratory personnel and the field workers in the Public Health Department.

### Hospitals.

Hospitals in the area are administered by the South West Regional Hospital Board, through the Bridgwater Area Management Committee.

The hospitals are:-

Bridgwater General Hospital	72 beds
Mary Stanley Nursing Home	31 beds
Northgate Lodge	60 beds

Cases of infectious diseases needing hospital treatment, or isolation, are admitted to Taunton Isolation Hospital.

In last year's report, reference was made to the inadequacy of hospital accommodation in Bridgwater in regard to both acute and chronic sick cases. Representation was made to the South West Regional Hospital Board and reply was received to the effect that the position regarding accommodation for chronic sick in the Region, as a whole, was under review. A suggestion that the Cossington Isolation Hospital might be used for hospital purposes was considered by the Ministry of Health, but it was considered to be unsuitable. However, at little cost suitable accommodation could be provided there for about 18 elderly patients.

It may be that the establishment of a geriatric unit would ensure better use being made of existing beds and so would relieve the position, but in so far as Bridgwater is concerned accommodation for acute and chronic sick cases is unchanged as compared with last year, and continued representation is necessary to ensure that steps are taken to improve the position.

### Ante-Natal Clinics.

Midwives' Ante-Natal Clinics are held each Monday and Wednesday afternoon from 2.00 to 4.30 p.m., at the Health Centre, Mount Street, Bridgwater. On the afternoon of the first Monday and Wednesday of each month a Medical Officer attends and blood samples are taken from expectant mothers for determination of Rhesus Factor, Blood Grouping, etc.. The clinics are staffed by Midwives and Health Visitors, and the opportunity is therefore taken of acquainting the expectant mother not only with the Midwife who will attend her at her confinement, but also with the Health Visitor who will be visiting her in her home, and advising her on the care of her baby. Much valuable educational work is carried out at these clinics.





### Infant Welfare Clinics.

Infant Welfare Clinics are held as follows:-

The Health Centre, Mount Street.	Tuesday, 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. Friday, 2.30 to 4.30 p.m.
The Community Centre, Bath Road Estate.	2nd and 4th Thursday in month, 2.00 to 4.00 p.m.
Greenfields, Hamp Estate.	2nd and 4th Tuesday in month, 2.00 to 4.00 p.m.

### Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics.

The Health Centre, Mount Street.	Friday, 11.0 a.m.
The Community Centre, Bath Road Estate.	2nd and 4th Thursday in month, 2.00 to 4.00 p.m.
Greenfields, Hamp Estate.	2nd and 4th Tuesday in month, 2.00 to 4.00 p.m.

### School Clinic.

A doctor attends a school clinic each Monday morning from 10.00 a.m., at the Health Centre, Mount Street, and school nurses attend minor ailment clinics at the Health Centre, from 9.00 to 11.00 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Minor ailment clinics are also held at Hamp Junior School on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 9.30 a.m., and at Bath Road Junior School on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9.30 a.m. This arrangement of holding nurses' clinics in the more distant schools has much to commend it when adequate facilities are available.

Other clinics held at the Health Centre, Mount Street, include,

Chest Clinic	Tuesday A.M. and Wednesday all day.
Orthopaedic Clinic	Monday and Thursday all day.
Speech Therapy Clinic	Friday all day.
Child Guidance Clinic	Monday P.M. and Tuesday A.M.
Breathing Exercises Clinic	Wednesday P.M.
Artificial Sunlight Clinic	Tuesday P.M. and Saturday A.M.

### Friarn Street Day Nursery.

This Nursery, administered by the County Council, is available for children aged 6 months to 5 years. A list of priorities has been drawn up by the Council and a local admission committee decides which children should be admitted. Admission is granted mainly on grounds of economic difficulty or unsatisfactory housing conditions. Accommodation is available for 25 children and the average daily attendance during 1955 was approximately 20.



### Ambulance Service.

An Ambulance and Hospital Car Service is provided by the County Council through the Agency of Voluntary Organisations. The local headquarters is at 7 West Street, Bridgwater.

### Home Help Service.

The Service is run by the County Council with local administration by the Home Help Organiser, with an office in the Health Centre, Mount Street.

Number of Home Helps at 31.12.55

(a) Full-time	17
(b) Part-time	34

Number of cases who received help during 1955.

(a) Acute sick	54
(b) Chronic sick	151
(c) Maternity	24

### National Assistance Act, 1948.

A number of cases were brought to the notice of the Health Department, but in all cases it was possible to make satisfactory arrangements for the welfare of the persons concerned, without seeking an Order for their compulsory removal to hospital.

It has been possible to deal with these cases only because of the assistance provided by the Home Help Service who have done a magnificent job. As a result, a number of cases were satisfactorily dealt with at home and kept in their own surroundings in reasonable comfort, when otherwise there would have been no alternative but to seek their admission to hospital.

### Borough Mortuary.

25 post mortem examinations were carried out at the Borough mortuary during 1955. This compares with 26 in the previous year.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### Disposal of Refuse.

Refuse disposal is by controlled tipping. The tip in use at Bath Road is practically filled and alternative tipping sites are required. Other clay pits at Bath Road could, with benefit, be used for tipping purposes, but as they are situated in close proximity to dwelling houses, it is considered that tipping in these pits should be restricted to the colder months of the year. In this way valuable land could be reclaimed and used in connection with the housing estate.



### Disinfestation.

The new disinfection station has been set up at Market Street and a new Thresh Steam Disinfector has been installed. The station is working most satisfactorily.

### Water Supplies.

Regular bacteriological examinations have been made of both the raw water and the water going into supply.

Results were as follows:-

#### Ashford Reservoir.

Untreated water. Five samples were examined, all of which showed evidence of contamination.

Water after treatment. Thirteen samples were examined, all of which gave excellent results.

#### Durleigh Reservoir.

Untreated water. Five samples were examined, all of which showed evidence of contamination.

Water after treatment. Seventeen samples were examined, all of which gave excellent results.

The whole of the Borough is supplied with water from the public mains. 6,840 houses, representing a population of 23,900 have a piped water supply from the mains, and no houses are supplied from standpipes.

Three samples of raw water were taken for chemical analysis, and all were reported as satisfactory.

### Swimming Baths.

Supervision has been maintained over the condition of the water in the swimming baths. Chemicals are added by hand and while the method will ensure a satisfactory water as regards bacteriological content during the greater part of the time when the baths are in use, it is unreliable when there is a large influx of bathers, i.e., when it is most needed. As the new internal relief road will put the present large bath out of action, the Council have agreed in principle to the provision of new baths in which the treatment of the water will include filtration and chemical treatment

### Drainage and Sewerage.

The whole of the Borough is covered by main drainage, and the sewage is disposed of by discharge into the River Parrett.

Construction of the trunk sewer from the Sydenham Estate was completed and further large scale building of Council houses was put in hand.





## Housing.

During the year 112 houses, including 22 private enterprise houses, were completed.

	Houses erected during year.	Houses in course of erection.	Conversion to flats or dwellings.
Local Authority	90	167	-
Private Enterprise	22	46	3
	112	213	3

Of 6,840 houses in the Borough, 2,431 are owned by the Local Authority. Construction of post war houses has reached the figure of 1,482, of which 1,288 have been built by the Council and 194 by Private Enterprise.

There were 974 applicants for Council houses at the end of the year.

## FACTORIES ACTS. 1937 & 1948

The following particulars indicate the action taken under Part I of the Factories Act, 1937.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted
		Inspections	Written Notices	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	49	16	2	-
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	82	37	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	131	53	2	-





PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS  
AND CONTAGIOUS DISEASES

The following table sets out the cases of notifiable diseases that occurred in the Borough during 1955. The table is drawn up after making the necessary corrections in diagnosis by either the practitioners or the Medical Officers at the Isolation Hospitals.

<u>Disease</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>
Measles	142	152
Scarlet fever	29	55
Paratyphoid fever	2	-
Puerperal pyrexia	4	7
Ophthalmia neonatorum	-	1
Dysentery	8	9
Whooping cough	18	238
Pneumonia	4	2
Acute poliomyelitis	3	1
Erysipelas	-	4
	<hr/> 210	<hr/> 469

Infantile Paralysis.

Two of these were children, who had the non-paralytic form of the disease and recovery was complete. The third case was an adult who suffered severe paralysis and who is still receiving orthopaedic treatment and making slow but steady progress. In accordance with the Council's policy the home contacts of these cases were placed in voluntary house and garden quarantine for a period of three weeks, and there can be little doubt that this measure helped to limit the spread of the virus in the population. The full merits of this procedure of quarantine of contacts can only be assessed after a period of time, but there seems little doubt that the most effective means of controlling poliomyelitis is by active immunisation of the susceptible population.

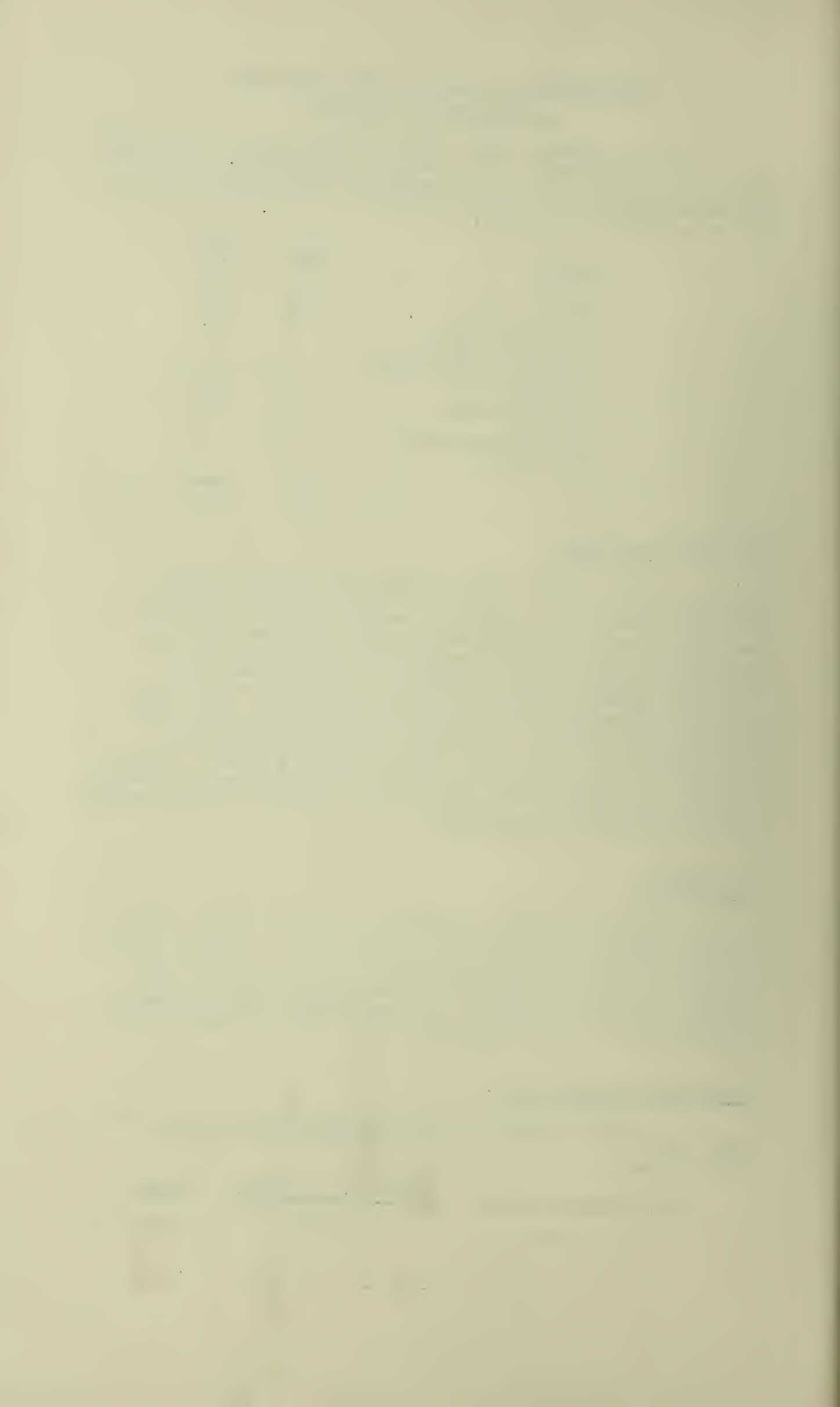
Diphtheria.

Children may be immunised by their family doctors, or at a special immunisation clinic which is held at the Health Centre, Mount Street, at 11.00 a.m., on every Friday, or at the Infant Welfare Clinics, which are held at the Community Centre, Bath Road Estate and Greenfields, Hamp Estate, in the afternoon of the second and fourth Thursdays and second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, respectively.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The following table shows the number of children who completed a course of primary immunisation during the year:-

<u>Aged under 5 years.</u>	<u>Aged 5 - 15 years.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
331 (351)	98 (163)	429 (514)



The figures in brackets are those for the previous year. Last year a special drive was made by the Health Visitors to have young children immunised and it was not expected that the high figures for that year would be repeated. The percentage of young infants now being immunised is higher than it has ever been and most parents wish to have the whooping cough immunisation combined with the diphtheria inoculation.

### Tuberculosis.

The following table shows the age groups of new cases notified during the year.

	<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non-respiratory</u>
Under 5 years	2	-
5 - 14 "	4	-
15 - 24 "	6	1
25 - 44 "	8	-
45 - 64 "	-	-
65 and over	1	-
Total all ages	21	1

21 new cases of respiratory tuberculosis and 1 case of non-respiratory tuberculosis were notified, as compared with 19 cases of respiratory and 1 case of non-respiratory tuberculosis in the previous year.

The search for positive cases amongst the contacts of known cases is well carried out and advantage is taken of the visits by the Mass Radiography Units for chest x-ray of members of the public.

During the year the unit attended at the Bridgwater Health Centre and at factories in the Borough and Rural District. A total of 3,100 persons (1,797 males and 1,313 females) attended for examination. No active cases of tuberculosis were discovered, although 14 inactive cases were noted. The following tables show the analysis and disposal of the patients with a tuberculous condition.

### Tuberculous Conditions.

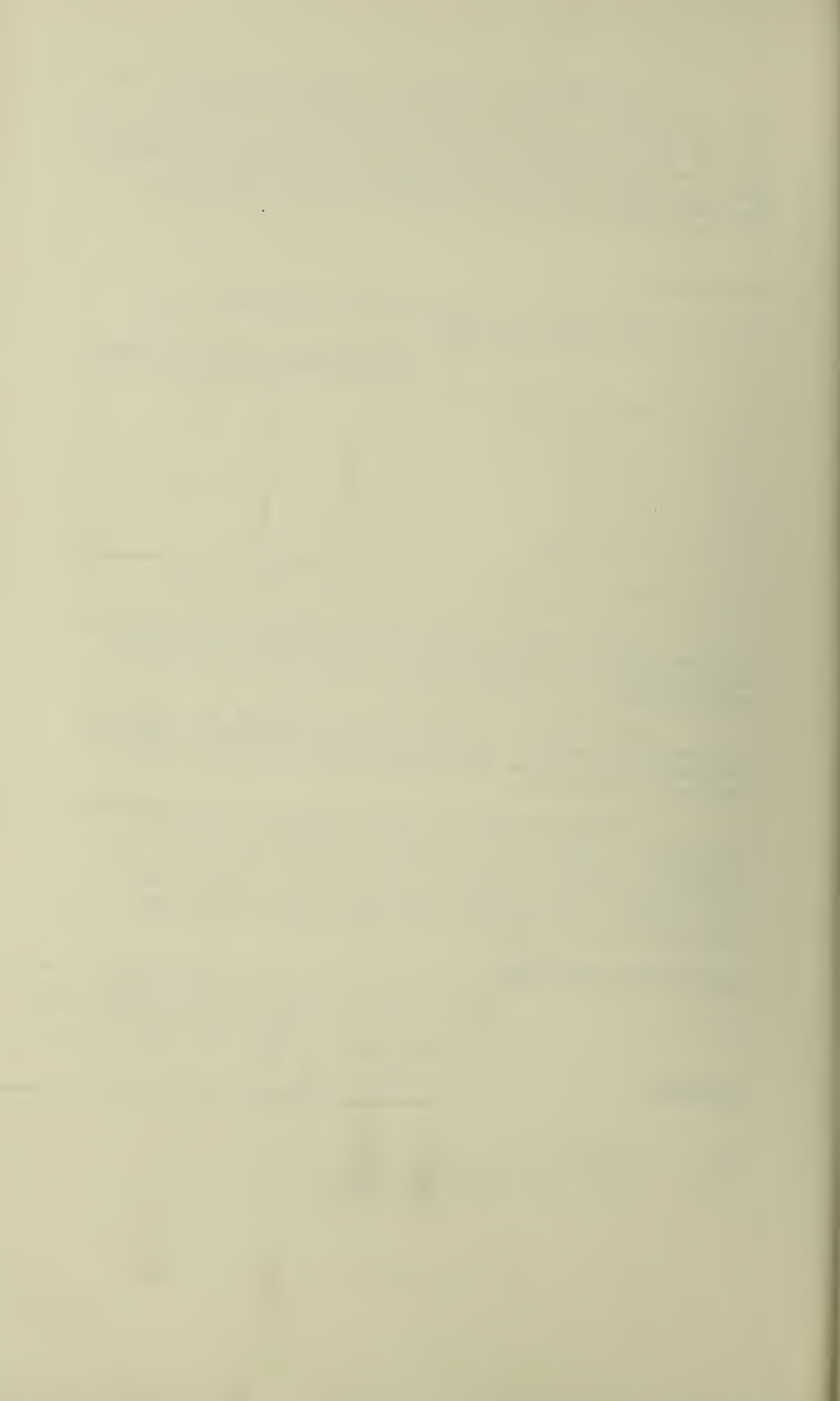
	Male	Female	Total	<u>Disposal</u>			
				N.A.	Dr.	Disp.	San.
<u>Inactive</u>	3	11	14	9	2	3	

N.A. = No action

Dr. = Patient's own doctor

Disp. = Under observation at Dispensary

San. = Sanatorium treatment required



Analysis of Inactive Tuberculous Cases.

AGE	Under 15	15/ 24	25/ 34	35/ 44	45/ 59	60 & over	Total
Male					3		3
Female		3	2		3	3	11
Total		3	2		6	3	14

In previous years examination of the public by Mass Radiography brought to light on average 4 new cases of active respiratory tuberculosis per 1,000 persons examined. Last year examination of 3,100 failed to reveal any new active cases. It was therefore necessary to consider whether, having regard to present conditions, the best use was being made of the mass x-ray facilities. In other areas it has been found that x-ray of patients referred by family doctors has been more productive of new cases of tuberculosis, and therefore for a trial period arrangements have been made for the unit to visit Bridgwater Health Centre for one day each month for the purpose of examining patients sent by the general practitioners. A visit of two weeks will be made in October for examination of members of the public wishing to avail themselves of the facilities. It may be that employment of x-ray units on the old system of long visits and x-ray of large numbers of the public, frequently the same people, may be no longer necessary or economically desirable.

It has been reported in the past that one of the two critical periods in life for the development of respiratory tuberculosis is in adolescence and early adult life, when young people are adjusting themselves to the stresses and strains of employment. It is therefore essential to raise the immunity of the population in this age group, and it is now possible, by vaccination, to artificially immunise those who have not developed a natural immunity by the time they reach school leaving age. The vaccine in use for this purpose is the B.C.G. vaccine (Bacillus Calmette-Guerin) and the Ministry of Education have informed Local Education Authorities that they are prepared to sanction schemes for the active immunisation, with this vaccine, of susceptible school leavers. Such a scheme is not in operation in this County, but most Education Authorities have availed themselves of the opportunity offered. It is considered that the introduction of such a scheme should help considerably in reducing still further the incidence of respiratory tuberculosis amongst people in the more susceptible age group.





### Vaccination against Smallpox.

No cases of smallpox occurred in the Borough during 1955. 78 primary vaccinations and 28 re-vaccinations against smallpox were carried out by general practitioners during the year. The following table, giving the age distribution of persons vaccinated, shows that only 63 children under the age of one year received primary vaccination, while the number of live births for the year was 368.

#### Persons vaccinated (or re-vaccinated) in 1954.

Under 1		1		2 to 4		5 to 14		15 or over		Totals	
P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R
63	-	2	-	-	1	3	2	10	25	78	28

P = Primary vaccination

R = Re-vaccination

The proportion of the population vaccinated against smallpox has fallen very considerably since the inception of the National Health Service Act 1946, which repealed compulsory vaccination.

### Food Poisoning.

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year.





# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY

## INSPECTOR FOR 1955

To:-

The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Bridgwater.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1955.

### Complaints.

During the year 145 complaints were received and dealt with under the Public Health or Housing Acts and in addition there were 206 complaints of rat or mouse infestation. The Public Health figures remain constant whilst those for Rat and Mouse infestation show an increase on 1954.

126 Preliminary Notices were served and 20 Statutory Notices. In no case was it necessary to take legal proceedings.

### Housing.

150 houses were inspected for the purpose of having defects remedied whilst 35 houses were systematically inspected under the Housing Regulations. Demolition Orders were made in the case of 13 houses.

During the year 21 houses were demolished as the result of formal or informal action.

The inspection of accommodation occupied by applicants on the Housing waiting List still entails a considerable amount of work.

The schedule at the end of the report gives the amount of repair work carried out under notice to existing houses.

The number of houses found to be verminous was 11, a large decrease on the figure for 1954.

11 cases of overcrowding were abated during the year, an increase of 9 as compared with 1954. The number of cases known at the end of the year was 29, as compared with 23 at the end of 1954. The majority of these cases are in non-parlour type Council houses whose permitted number is low and where the degree of overcrowding is very slight.

### Infectious Diseases.

Enquiries are made in cases of notifiable disease and disinfection is carried out free of cost. In other cases a charge is made. The new disinfecting plant at Market Street is functioning satisfactorily.

### Food.

The inspection of food and the premises in which it is prepared for sale or sold is one of the most important duties of the Department.



# Meat Inspection.

During the year slaughtering was carried out at 6 private Slaughterhouses. This necessitated 1,379 visits of inspection and the following carcasses were condemned.

Table 1. Carcasses Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed	370	75	114	2,387	1,211	-
Number Examined	370	75	114	2,387	1,211	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis - Whole Carcasses condemned	-	1	-	7	1	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	7	3	-	72	50	-
% of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	1.9	5.3	0	3.3	4.2	-
Tuberculosis only - whole carcasses condemned	-	1	-	-	1	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	11	3	-	-	17	-
% of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	3.0	5.3	0	0	1.5	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration -	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Weight of meat condemned (in lbs.) for						
(a) Tuberculosis	159	815	-	-	584	-
(b) Cysticercosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Other	129	1,020	-	557	302	-
Total (in lbs.) condemned	288	1,835	-	557	886	-



Table 2. Meat Condemned

	Beef	Pork	Mutton	Veal
Whole carcasses	2	2	7	-
Fore or Hind Quarters	1	-	-	-
Heads	2	16	-	-
Other Joints	7	3	1	-
Internal Organs	30	92	97	-

Total Weight of Meat and Offal Condemned - 1 Ton, 8 Cwt, 107 lbs.

Regular visits have been maintained at food premises and the following table sets out the food condemned:-

Bacon	3 cwt. 106 lbs.
Beef	6 cwt. 107 lbs.
Wet Fish	1 cwt. 2 lbs.
Canned Fish	1080 Tins
Canned Meat	592 Tins
Canned Fruit	798 Tins
Canned Vegetables	702 Tins
Canned Soup	39 Tins
Canned Milk	223 Tins
Jam	21 Tins & Jars.
Cheese	17 lbs.
Other Foods	4 cwt. 20 lbs.

The survey of foodshops has been completed and more premises provided with a constant supply of hot water.

The number of firms retailing milk in the Borough is 20 and there are 11 dairies. This reduces the number of retail distributors by one.

All the milk sold in the Borough is either Pasteurised or Tuberculin Tested.

The number of samples of graded milk examined during the year was 87 with the following results:-

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Not Satisfactory</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pasteurised	35	1	36
Tuberculin Tested (Past)	38	1	39
Tuberculin Tested	<u>11</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>12</u>
	<u>84</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>87</u>





### Ice Cream.

The number of premises registered for the manufacture or sale of ice-cream is as follows:-

Registered for manufacture and sale	0
Registered for sale	<u>82</u>
	<u>82</u>

No ice-cream is now manufactured in the Borough and practically the whole of the ice-cream retailed is wrapped.

90 samples of ice-cream were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year and these were graded as follows:-

Grade 1	67
Grade 2	15
Grade 3	7
Grade 4	1

These results whilst not quite as good as those obtained last year can be considered satisfactory.

### Swimming Baths.

The supervision of the condition of the water in the Public Swimming Baths has been carried out and 117 visits were made for this purpose. At these visits tests for residual chlorine are carried out and a standard of 0.5 p.p.m. of free chlorine maintained.





### Rats and Mice Destruction.

Two fully trained Rodent Operators are employed to carry out the destruction of rats. The sewers were treated half yearly and the refuse tip on 6 occasions. The following table sets out details of the work carried out during the year ending 31st March, 1956.

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricul- tural	Business and Industrial Premises	Total
1. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1955-6 as a result of:-	(a) 5	118	-	30	153
(a) Notification (b) Survey or otherwise	(b) 25	2,085	19	304	2,433
2. Number of properties inspected (see Section 1) which were found to be infested with rats	Major 2 Minor 8	6 94	- -	7 9	15 111
3. Number of properties inspected (see Section 1) which were found to be infested with mice	Major - Minor -	- 35	- -	8 7	8 42
4. Number of properties treated by Local Authority (see Sections 2 and 3)	10	135	-	31	176

### Staff.

Mr. B.C. Reilly was appointed as Additional Sanitary Inspector and commenced his duties on 1st April. All the members of the Staff carried out their duties satisfactorily.

### Summary.

#### Inspections made during the year

#### General Sanitation

Water Supply	47
Drainage	143
Stable and Piggeries	7
Houses let in lodgings	1
Factories	51
Rats and Mice	244
Shops	251
Caravan Sites	9
Swimming Baths	117
Public Conveniences	344
Smoke Observations	59
Heating Appliances	30
Pet Shops	3
Miscellaneous	180



### Housing.

Houses inspected under Public Health Acts	150
Visits paid to the above houses	524
Houses inspected under the Housing Acts	35
Visits paid to the above houses	53
Houses inspected during Housing Survey	2,247
Houses inspected in connection with overcrowding	14
Visits paid to the above houses	38
Verminous premises inspected	13
Visits paid to the above premises	16
Miscellaneous	1,286

### Infectious Diseases.

Inquiries in cases of Infectious Diseases	15
Visits re disinfection	22
Miscellaneous	2

### Meat and Food Inspections.

Visits to Slaughterhouses	1,254
Visits to Shops and Stalls	125
Visits to Butchers	106
Visits to Fishmongers and Poulterers	8
Visits to Grocers	111
Visits to Greengrocers and Fruiterers	2
Visits to Bakehouses	16
Visits to Fried Fish Shops	8
Visits to Dairies and Milkshops	30
Visits to Ice Cream Premises	162
Visits to Restaurants and Catering Establishments	3
Visits to Food Preparing Premises	35
Visits to Market Stalls	65
Visits for Samples of Milk (Bacteriological)	35
Miscellaneous	55

### Explosives.

Visits in connection with explosives	65
Visits in connection with Petroleum Spirit	9

### Work Done.

Complaints investigated	146
Rat complaints investigated	204
Choked drains and sewers cleared	25
Drains relaid	6
Drains or sewers repaired	4
Inspection chambers provided	11
Defective ceilings repaired	34
Defective chimneys repaired	15
Defective doors repaired	35
Defective eavesgutters and downpipes repaired	25
Defective firegrates and ranges repaired	18
Defective floors repaired	21
Defective flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	3
Defective plastering repaired	49
Defective roofs repaired	45
Defective scullery troughs repaired or renewed	7
Defective scullery wastepipes repaired	6



Defective Staircases repaired	5
Defective urinals repaired	1
Defective walls repaired	13
Defective washing coppers repaired	3
Defective water closets repaired	8
Defective windows repaired	41
Additional ventilation provided	5
Dampness remedied	12
Flush cisterns provided	1
Sashcords renewed	13
Hot water supply provided	4
Overcrowding abated	11
Scullery troughs provided	3
Smoke nuisances abated	1
Verminous premises cleansed	11
Premises disinfested from rats or mice	260
Premises cleansed	2
Walls cleansed	34
Ceilings cleansed	37
Water closets provided	1
Other nuisances abated	11
Shops Act forms provided	53
Shops Act - Adjustment of Young Persons Hours	2
Shops Act - Enforcement of Assistants Half Day	27
Shops Act - Heating provided	1
Water closets cleansed	1
Food cupboards provided or repaired	3
Additional lighting	10

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R.K. LEAN,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

